

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the international patent document WO 03 097 399. At the same the Examiner indicated that claims 1-7 and 9-11 are allowed.

The Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 1-7 and 9-11 has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this indication the above listed claims have been retained as they were.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of claim 12 over the art, applicants canceled claim 12 without prejudice.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application now contains only the allowable claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by

Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 27233